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OUR HOME, OUR COUNTRY, AND OUR BROTHER MAN.

WORN OUT LANDS AND PINE PLAINS.

Some time since we made some remarks on the subject of renovating worn out lands, and gave extracts from Mr. Stabler's prize essay on the subject, which was published in the American Farmer. In the last No. of the Farmer's Monthly Visitor, we find some remarks upon the same subject, from the pen of its Editor, Ex-Governor Hill, who gives, in a brief article, the mode he has adopted in the cultivation of the pine plains land in his vicinity. He has been remarkably successful in this business, and as this kind of land is coming into use more and more among us, as population increases, it may be useful to some of our readers, if we give an abstract of his method.

He lays great stress on deeply stirring the earth, and he has used the subsoil plough on these light lands with great benefit. We gather this from some former remarks, where, in his states that he has stirred the soil this way, fifteen inches in depth, and that the crops, Indian corn for instance, growing on such deeply stirred fields, withstood the drought better than the same species of crop placed on the same kind of land, ploughed only to the ordinary depth.

He also makes great use of the mineral manures in conjunction with animal manures from the stables, thereby giving to the crop all the elements which it requires to form what is desired by the farmer.

He is now using, he says, in the creation of his compost heaps, lime, ashes and salt. He leached ashes cost him six cents per bushel, unleached ones ten cents. His salt costs him thirty-three cents per bushel.

He designs to use this compost upon pine plains, next spring, which have been subsoiled, and they are added to black muck.

Of this compost he proposes to use twenty loads per acre, sided by two hundred pounds of guano, mixed in a like quantity (two hundred pounds) of ground plaster, sowed over the ground, and harrowed in. In this way, he intends to dress twenty acres for potatoes, which have already been ploughed, and so sanguine is he that if the crop be planted by the 15th of May, that he will warrant them free from rot at a premium of two per cent. on the cost of labor and manure, and that by the stirring of fifteen inches in depth, the drought of next summer will not affect the field so soon as it will the shallow ploughed hardpan soils in the immediate neighborhood.

He observes that when this land shall have received its first dress of compost, such as we are preparing for it, in two and three years' application, it may be made sure for a three or four shift rotation forever, with at least as much profit from the amount of labor and extent of manure, as any other equal number of acres.

He proposes the following rotation of crops for this land, viz: After the first preparatory course, would be, for the first year, Indian corn or potatoes—second, oats, barley, or winter rye, in all cases accompanied with the earlier clover, sowed with a bushel of ground plaster to the acre—third, and perhaps fourth year, pasturage or mowing, the same shift to be pursued ad infinitum.

He estimates the yield of hay to the acre to be, for the first year, at least two tons, and the ploughing in, during the fall or spring, of the second growth of clover will be almost equal to a common coating of manure, so that in the second course much less manure will suffice for the largest crops, than was required in the beginning.

Two acres of this clover, he states, will be sufficient for the pasturage of a cow through the summer.

From some experiments tried by us some years ago, and from observations among those who have had such lands to cultivate, we have not a doubt that the course recommended by Gov. Hill, will succeed as well on any of the light plain lands in this State, as it does with him.

We have large tracts of such lands on our seaboard, and also in the interior, near the margins of some of our rivers. And instead of letting them go "common," as it is called, if enclosed and cultivated as above recommended, they will prove as profitable as any lands that are cultivated. It is true that they are not so retentive as the clays or clayey loams. They require to be turned over oftener, and more often dressed with suitable manures—but then they return the capital so expended, sooner than the other lands, and are vastly more easy to work. The difference in the wear and tear of farming tools, and the strength of team required to cultivate the two kinds of soils, is largely in favor of the pine plains land. Let those who have such lands, and have turned them out as too barren to meddle with, try one acre faithfully, and note the results.

We think they will be willing to continue the improvements afterwards.

PLANTING AND TRANSPLANTING EVERGREENS.

Those who wish to raise evergreens from the seed, such as firs, pines, cedar, spruce, &c., should be preparing for the business now. Many of the seeds, such as that of the cedar or arbutus, do not become thoroughly ripened until somewhat later in the season than the present date; but if the cones be gathered and laid away a short time they will ripen. The seeds may be sown on the surface of the ground or bed where you wish to have them, and if it be frozen, some sand or earth obtained from a pit or that has been laid by, may be scattered over them, so as to cover them slightly. A very little covering will be sufficient. Just enough to keep them from being blown away by the winds or washed away by the rains or melting snows. If it is not convenient to sow such seeds now, they may be kept in sand, and laid away in a box where they may freeze, or, at any rate, not become too dry, and then sown in the spring. It may seem rather useless to some to take the trouble of sowing seeds here when we can go out into the forest and obtain as many young trees of the kind as we may want. It is true that we can obtain them, in nature's nursery, of all sizes; but it is also true that we do not always find them growing on a soil similar to the one we wish to transplant them into, and that the change of soil does have quite an effect upon their chances of living and the rate of their growth if they do live.

While on the subject of transplanting, we may give you, in short, the advice of L. Bartlett, Esq., of Warner, N. H., who found by experiment that a large portion of the soil transplanted with the tree greatly increased the chances of its living. He says your evergreens will flourish exactly in proportion to the quantity of soil allowed to the roots. By preparing the holes for setting them now, and digging a trench also around the trees to be moved as soon as the earth around them is sufficiently frozen to cling to the roots, they may be taken up and transported on sleds or low carts, and thus planted out with every prospect of success. Trees of considerable size may thus be transferred from one place to another with success. Even when transplanted in this manner, it may be necessary—at any rate, not wholly useless—to water them occasionally during the first summer, especially if they have been taken from a wet or moist situation. They should also be defended from cattle, for, although they will not browse or crop them, they delight to hook and rub their heads and horns against them, whether out of a love of mischief or by way of making their toilette with such fragrant apparatus, we have never ascertained. We once had a dozen or two of young firs, that were growing finely, completely ruined in this way.

A SURE WAY TO PROTECT THE BEE FROM THE MILLER. MESSRS. EDITORS—I was this summer witness, in a Western State, to a contrivance for protecting the bee from the miller, which was novel to me, and, indeed, to the contriver himself, until it struck his mind in the beginning of the season.

Thinking it may be a novelty to all your readers, I will give a description of it: The contrivance I witnessed was this: "A bee-house 8 feet square and 8 feet high, surrounded by a roof running up to a spire, with a weathervane. In the middle of each of the four sides of the house was a close fitting door of sufficient width and height to allow persons to enter with ease standing erect. Within was a series of three shelves, or platforms, one over the other, four feet square, supported by corner posts reaching from the ground to the top of the walls, and morticed perhaps into cross pieces from the top of the walls. These platforms would accommodate from 12 to 16 common hives. In the day time all these doors were fastened open, but as soon as the bees were in, the evening, they were closed. Early in the morning they were again thrown open, and the little prisoner let forth to his toil. In the winter the doors are to be kept locked, except when access is wanted to the hive."

By the means above stated, the miller was kept completely from the hives. He would often be seen coming round in the evening, and knocking in vain for admittance. One morning, indeed, I believe a few millers were found in the house, when the doors had been closed to late an hour in the evening previous. But they had evidently found themselves entirely in the dark, and had done no mischief. It is obvious that the house, with its internal arrangement, could be of any size that common sense may dictate.

FATTENING ANIMALS. A memoir was read to the Academy of Sciences, at Paris, by M. M. Dumas, Boussingault, and Payan, "Of researches on the fattening of animals, and on the formation of milk." These philosophers announce their belief that fatty matters are formed in plants alone; and they thence pass, roundly formed, into the bodies of herbivores, entering the chyle duct by the lacteals, and so passing into the blood; that the first degree of oxidation forms stearine or oleic acid; a still further degree produces the margaric acid which characterizes fat; another, volatile fatty acids—in opposition to Liebig, who traces the origin of fat to the sugar or starch of the food. In confirmation of their views, they show that hay contains more per cent. of oleaginous matter than is produced in the butter from a cow fed on this hay; and that cows fed on potatoes, or other roots poor in fat, produce much less butter. They advance an influence, which bears much on rural economy, that a cow eliminates twice as much fat from a given quantity of food as does an ox; and hence the commerce of milk and butter deserves a high degree of attention. Some relative experiments on fattening pigs bear out the same general principles.

[Pol. Review.]

TRUE PRINCIPLES OF FEEDING.

If persons engaged in this pursuit would only use that sense which God has provided them with, and which is generally styled common sense, the business would be divested of a great deal of its mystery. Some people will say that it is much easier to find out what is wrong than to say what is right; and this is true to a certain degree; but regarding the cultivation of the land, there are certain inviolable principles which should always be kept in view; and these I will endeavor to enumerate. The first that strikes me is the clearing of the ground; it is absurd to think of trying to grow grain under trees in a wood, nor is it sufficient to take away a part of them—I mean, of course, with the idea of perfection. For instance, suppose you have 50 trees on an acre; that is, about one to every three square rods; the soil capable of bearing 50 bushels of wheat, or 1 bushel of each tree; and suppose that you cut down 49 of them, you will only be able to grow 49 bushels, instead of 50—the annual waste or cost of that tree being the value of one bushel of wheat, or whatever crop might have been on the 3 rods of ground which that tree monopolized. Therefore, if it is necessary to clear the land before you can grow grain, it is reasonable and self-evident that it should be entirely cleared, every fractional part you leave doing injury in its degree.

The next point to notice is the dryness or wetness of the soil; see if the stagnant water is sufficiently near the surface to do injury to the crops, even by capillary attraction, which science tells us, will raise water 4 feet—and practice has shown that it must not be nearer; therefore, if the stagnant water be nearer than 4 feet, drain it to that depth. It is absurd to attempt to cultivate land against so powerful an enemy as water. Thirdly, we consider the pulverization of the soil. Ought it to be pulverized at all? To this question I think our common sense will give an answer in the affirmative, so that the plant may more easily expand its roots to seek for nourishment in the soil, which soil which pulverization should extend as far as the roots of the plant; but it is common sense to think that 5 or 6 inches only is the distance that the roots of plants extend. I will not take advantage of a few facts that have been noticed of the immense depths that roots descend, but merely appeal to common sense and ask whether it is not reasonable to suppose that the roots bend down as far as the plants above the soil, and if so, ought not the soil to be pulverized to that extent, viz: about 4 feet?

The first expense of this, I am aware, renders it almost impracticable; but this I cannot help. I cannot alter the true principles of nature. I must assert, with common sense, that the deeper you pulverize, the more you move in a right direction. W. G. G. [Gard. Chronicle.]

CARE OF SHEEP.

A "Practical Farmer," writing to the Germantown Telegraph, gives the following practical directions for the care of sheep:

"An opinion prevails in some sections that sheep require no water during the winter, and that they actually do better without than with it. This, however, is a great mistake and one that not unfrequently gives rise to serious losses. When permitted, sheep though they are capable from their peculiar structure, and habits of subsisting a longer time probably without water than any other domestic animal, will drink from four to eight times a day, and with evident advantage, particularly during winter, when they are necessarily restricted to dry and indigestible food, which naturally engenders thirst, and requires much to render the economy of digestion and assimilation sufficiently rapid and perfect to insure a continuance of thrift and health. When practicable, there should always be a watering trough in the shed or yard, to which the animals can at all times have a free access, without mingling with cattle or larger stock, as they are liable to be injured by the latter, especially when with young. When there is a pump in the yard, as there always should be—the trouble attending such an arrangement, is comparatively slight, even where the sheep and cattle yards are, as they ought to be, distinct. From twenty-five to thirty sheep are as many as can be well kept in one enclosure. When the number exceeds this, unless special care be had to secure the most perfect ventilation, the animals are liable to contract diseases, and never do so well as when confined in smaller flocks. On taking sheep from the pastures, in autumn, the sudden change from green to dry food often operates detrimentally, which is sufficiently evinced by the loss of appetite and consequent emaciation evinced, and which is often attributed, erroneously, to disease. As soon as they are taken from the ranges, a couple of messes of potatoes should be given them daily for a week or so, gradually lessening the quantity as they become accustomed to, and acquire a relish for other food. By adopting this plan, and allowing them a liberal supply of salt and water, their vigor will remain unimpaired, and the change rendered unavoidable by circumstances, will be productive of no unpleasant results."

BENEFIT OF SALT IN THE FOOD OF SHEEP.

From some experiments made at the Agricultural Institute, at St. Germain, in France, it appears that the sheep, which gained in weight three and one fourth pounds a month, increased double that amount in the same length of time, when about one tenth of an ounce of salt was added to the food of each per day.

RUSSIAN SHEEP IN ENGLAND. A vessel lately arrived at London from Archangel, with 707 tonnes of wool, 15 barrels of ox tongues, and other productions of the Russian Empire.

Great efforts from great motives, is the best definition of a happy life. The easiest labor is a burden to him who has no motive for performing it.

VARIETIES OF MILK.

As far as we know, no nation uses the milk of any carnivorous animal. There is no reason for believing that the milk of this order of animals would be either disagreeable or unwholesome; but the ferocity and restlessness of the creatures will always present an obstacle to the experiment. The different milks of those animals with which we are acquainted agree in their chemical qualities, and are confirmed by the fact, that other animals beside man can be nourished in infancy by the milk of every distinct species. Rats and levers are being suckled by cats, fawns by ewes, foals by goats, and man, in all stages of his existence, has been nourished by the milk of various animals, except the carnivorous. The milk of the mare is inferior in only matter to that of the cow, but it is said to contain more sugar, and other salts. The milk of the ewe is as rich as that of the cow in oil, but contains less sugar than that of the other animals. Cheese made of ewe milk is still used in England and Scotland, but it is gradually being disused. The milk of the ass approaches that of human milk in several of its qualities. To this resemblance it owes its use by invalids in pulmonary complaints, but it has no particular virtue to recommend its preference, and is only prescribed by nurses. Goat's milk perhaps stands next to that of the cow in its qualities; it is much used in Southern Europe. It affords excellent cheese and butter, its cream being rich, and more copious than that from cows. Camel's milk is employed in China, Africa, and, in short, in all those countries where the animal flourishes. It is, however, poor in every respect, but still being milk, it is invaluable where butter is not to be procured. The milk of the sow resembles that of the cow, and is used at Canton and other parts of China. The milk of the buffalo is also like that of the cow, though the two animals belong to different species. Every preparation of milk, and every separate ingredient of it is wholesome; milk, cream, butter, cheese, fresh curds, whey, skimmed milk, butter-milk, &c. Butter-milk and whey will undergo a spontaneous vinous fermentation if kept long enough, and alcohol can be distilled from it. The Tartars, it is well known, prepare large quantities of spirituous drinks from mare's milk.

CORN FOR FODDER.

We are not aware that any one in our neighborhood has tried the experiment of raising corn expressly for fodder, but having read of its success elsewhere, we last spring determined to make the attempt. We accordingly enriched one acre of sward land with twenty-five loads of manure from the cow house, ploughed and planted about the 25th of May. The kind of corn was the "Ohio ground seed," a large variety. It was scattered thickly in drills, which were three feet apart. It was hoed once, and cultivated twice without hilling. The following extract from our ledger shows the result:

EXPENSES.	
Hauling out 25 loads of manure at \$7 1/2	
cts. per day, - - - - -	\$2.63 1/2
Plowing 1 day with horses at \$1.25 per day, - - - - -	1.25
Harrowing do. do. - - - - -	1.25
2-1/2 days planting at 62 1/2 cts. - - - - -	1.56 1/2
5 days hoeing and plastering, - - - - -	3.12 1/2
150 lbs. plaster at 99 per ton, - - - - -	1.35
2 days cultivating at 87 1/2 cts. - - - - -	1.75
5 days harvesting, with ox team 1 day, - - - - -	3.37 1/2
	\$16.38 1/2

CROP.

6 1/2 tons of fodder equal, if not altogether superior, to the best hay, at \$6 per ton, - - - - - \$39.00

Subtract expenses, - - - - - 16.38 1/2

Profit, - - - - - \$22.71 1/2

We say the fodder is equal to the best hay for several reasons. 1st. There were no ears on it on account of its being so thickly planted. All the sugar, starch, &c., which would have formed the grain consequently remained in the stalk, and we found that after being cut and stacked in the field for six weeks, the dried stalk would yield, on being twisted, a syrup almost as sweet as molasses. It is, therefore, rich feed, and the cattle were so fond of it that they would leave clover six inches high to get at it. 2d. The height to which it grew was about 8 feet, and as the stalks were very thick in the rows, they did not exceed an average of three-fourths of an inch in diameter. As we shut it all up with a machine, we do not expect to lose a particle of it, as is always the case with fodder which has borne ears. The crop obtained was not as great as the land could bear. If rich enough, 8 to 10 tons of the large kind might be raised on an acre.

It should be cut down when it has reached its full growth—when the few ears produced on the outside stalks are silking out—and allowed to wilt on the ground for a day or two before drying. Great care must be taken in curing it, or it will certainly heat in the mow, and fermentation having once occurred the stalks are useless for anything but manure.

"We have charged the labor at what it actually cost. Our help was hired by the month."

[Vermont Agriculturist.]

MILKING COWS.

This is a subject of too much importance to be passed over; and I fear that I must need that it is a subject far too much neglected. The milking of cows resolves itself naturally into two heads, viz: how to milk, and when to milk.

How to milk.—It is astonishing what difference there is in good and bad milking. 1. If every drop of milk in the cow's udder is not carefully removed at each milking, the secretion will gradually diminish in proportion to the quantity each day left behind. This fact is well established, and is to be well accounted for on philosophic principles, as well as borne out in practice. Nature creates nothing in vain, and the secretion of milk in the cow only suffices to supply that daily left—the milk left behind in the udder is re-

absorbed into the system, and consequently the next milking will be so much the less in quantity. But another reason why every drop of milk should be taken away, is to be found in the well-known fact that the last milk is doubly as good as the first milk—hence, if not removed, there is not merely equal, but double loss. 2. Milking should be conducted with skill and tenderness—all churning or plucking at the teats should be avoided. A gentle and expert milker will not only clear the udder with greater ease than a rough and inexperienced person, but will do so with far more comfort to the cow, which will stand pleased and quietly, chewing the cud, and testifying by her manner and attitude that she experiences pleasure rather than annoyance from the operation. Cows will not yield their milk to a person they dislike or dread. I have taken some trouble to acquire the art of milking, in order that I might be able to describe it. You take the teat in your palm, enclosing it gradually in your fingers, tighter below than above; but not absolutely tight anywhere—a portion of the upper part of the hand—the thumb is uppermost—embraces a portion of the udder, and the whole hand is drawn gently downwards, towards the extremity of the teat, between the thumb and the forefinger; very little practice enables the milker to do this with ease, rapidly, and tenderness. I need not say let the hands be carefully washed before each milking; but I dare say it is seldom thought necessary to wash the cow's teats. This, nevertheless, should be done, and it will then be found that the milk will flow more freely with any teats than if you wet them with the milk; at least, I find it so, and think myself an expert milker.

We now require to consider when the cows are to be milked—a question again revolving itself into two minor ones, viz: at what hours, and how often? The ordinary practice is to milk cows twice daily—at about 5 o'clock in the morning, or, in winter, as soon after daylight as possible, and again at the same hour in the afternoon, thus leaving 12 hours' interval between each milking. Some recommend milking three times daily during the summer months, stating as their reason that cows are then after calving, and flush of milk, and that the three milkings are calculated to increase the quantity of the secretion. Some even recommend four milkings during that season. There can be no question but that, when fed in proportion, such a constant demand would necessarily increase the quantity of milk secreted; but then it is likely that the same causes might produce such a depression in the secretory system—naturally consequent upon unusual excitement—as would cause a decrease of milk in autumn and winter, in about equal ratio. [Ayr Agriculturist.]

ATMOSPHERE—VEGETATION.

The atmosphere supplies the vegetable creation with the principal part of its food; plants extract inorganic substances from the ground, which are indispensable to bring them to maturity. The black and brown mould which is so abundant in the produce of decayed vegetables. When the autumnal leaves—the spoil of the summer—fall to the ground, and their vitality is gone, they enter into combination with the oxygen of the atmosphere, and convert it into an equal volume of carbonic acid gas, which consequently exists abundantly in every good soil, and is the most important part of the food of vegetables. This process is slow, and stops as soon as the air in the soil is exhausted; but the plough, by loosening the earth, and permitting the atmosphere to enter more freely, and penetrate deeper into the ground, accelerates the decomposition of the vegetable matter, and consequently the formation of carbonic acid. In loosening and refining the mould, the common earth-worm is the fellow-laborer of man. It eats earth, and after extracting the nutritious part, ejects the refuse, which is the finest soil, and may be seen lying in heaps at the mouth of its burrow. So instrumental is this reptile in preparing the grounds, that it is said there is not a particle of the finer vegetable mould that has not passed through the intestines of the worm; thus the most feeble of living creatures is employed by Providence to accomplish the most important ends. The food of the vegetable creation consists of carbon, hydrogen, nitrogen, and oxygen, all of which plants obtain entirely from the atmosphere, in the form of carbonic acid gas, water, and ammonia.

They imbibe these three substances, and after having decomposed them, they give back the oxygen to the air, and consolidate the carbon, water, and nitrogen into wood, leaves, flowers, fruit. When a seed is thrown into the ground, the vital principle is developed by heat and moisture, and part of the substance of the seed is formed into roots which suck up water, mixed with carbonic acid from the soil, decompose it, and consolidate the carbon. In this stage of their growth, plants derive their whole sustenance from the ground. As soon, however, as the sugar and mucilage of the seed appear above the ground, in the form of leaves or shoots, they absorb and decompose the carbonic acid of the atmosphere, retain the carbon for their food, and give out the oxygen in the day, and pure carbonic acid in the night. In proportion as plants grow, they derive more of their food from the air and less from the soil, till their fruit is ripened, and then their whole nourishment is derived from the atmosphere. Trees are fed from the air, after their fruit is ripe, till their leaves fall; annuals, till they die. Air-plants derive all their food from the air. In our Northern and mountain climates the vigor of vegetation is suspended during the dry, but during the night; some show it in their leaves, others in their blossoms. The mimosa tribe not only close their leaves at night, but their flowers close; in a clover field not a leaf opens till after sunrise. The common daisy is a familiar instance of a sleeping flower; it closes up its blossom in the evening, and opens its white and crimson-tipped star, the "day's

eye," to meet the early beams of the morning sun; and then also "winking Mary-buds begin to open their golden eyes." The crocus, tulip, convolvulus, and many others, close their blossoms at different hours towards evening, some to open again, others never. The condor of the walls opens at eight in the morning, and closes forever at four in the afternoon. Some plants seem to be wide awake all night, and to give out their perfume then only, or at night-fall. Many of the jasmines are most fragrant during the twilight; the olea fragrans, the daphne odorata, and the night stock, reserve their sweetness for the midnight hour, and the night flowering ariosa turns night into day. It begins to expand its magnificent sweet-scented blossom in the twilight, it is full blown at midnight, and closes, never to open again, with the dawn of day: these are "the bats and owls of the vegetable kingdom." [Mrs. Somerville.]

URINE—ITS MEDICAL PROPERTIES.

MESSRS. EDITORS: As yet I have discovered nothing in your paper in regard to the value of this medical agent; and presuming from that fact, as well as from my observation of the practice of men around me, that its nature is but very little understood by our farmers, I have hopes of doing some good by communicating the information that I possess in regard to it. I attach very great importance to its use under a great variety of circumstances, and so much that for the preservation of the health of my hogs and cattle, I would not dispense with it, for any consideration. I was first led to suspect its value, by the recollection of an old fact of a horse jockey whom I once knew, using great quantities of it in the treatment of "racks," that he was in the habit of "picking up, reviving, and peddling off for horses." That it has value, I have always understood; but that fact connected with its circumstances, led me to look to it for far more healing virtue than the world knew of. I accordingly commenced its use; and three or four years of experience and close observation have satisfied me that I did even under-estimate its power. And I believe, now, that the blind staggers, murrain, and horn ail—very prevalent complaints in some portions of the north-west—can get no hold of hogs and cattle that are allowed to have it. I tried it first with a cow that was attacked with the horn distemper. She was soon to come in, and I felt afraid of the more powerful agents that are generally used while the rapid progress of the murrain warned me of the danger of delaying relief until she dropped her calf. I gave it to her freely and it cured her. Since that time I have given it, habitually, to my cattle, and have never had one attacked with any of the prevalent diseases, nor had occasion to bleed them in the spring of the year to render them healthy. For three seasons of prevalence of dry murrain, my cattle have been entirely exempt from it, and urine is the only medicine that I have used during the time. I have found "white lie" made with it, to be more efficacious than any of the remedies advised to me by veterinarians, for curing swellings, cakes, mores, &c. on my cattle—while not the first one of my hogs that have been allowed the use of urine, has been attacked with any ailment; and the others have been no healthier than other people. With these facts I ask every farmer to try it for himself. The medicine is simple, cheap—only to be saved when you have it—and, I have good reason for believing the most efficient preventive that can be used. Who will try it with their sheep? DIXON.

Neosho, Dodge co. Wis., Aug. 1848. [Prairie Farmer.]

GAS FROM WATER.

The London Mining Journal describes a method of manufacturing gas from water that differs from any we have heretofore seen, and appears perfectly practicable. The editor remarks:

"We were much pleased with a descriptive lecture, at the Polytechnic Institution, accompanied by a working model of a new hydrocarbon gas apparatus, patented by Mr. Stephen White, for the manufacture of gas from water and common tar or resin, &c. The invention appears to be a valuable one, and was explained in its various points by Dr. Ryan, the able coadjutor of Mr. Isham Baggs at this Institution. The apparatus consists of three retorts placed in a stove, two of which are filled with charcoal and thin pieces of iron, and the other with iron scales hanging from a centre bar. The two first retorts are from the decomposition of water, which is regularly supplied by means of a syphon pipe, passing through and into the centre of the retort; the water, in passing through the heated material, becomes converted into pure hydrogen and peroxide of carbon. It then passes into the third retort, to receive its dose of bi-carburet of hydrogen, which is prepared from common tar, or melted resin, or similar substances passing or dropping on the red-hot chain, from a cyphometer, which regulates its supply. This causes the tar, or melted resin, to throw off an abundance of bi-carburet or hydrogen gas. The gases being mixed in this manner, are immediately conveyed into the gasometer for use, without any purifying vessels whatever, none being required. The great advantages arising from this invention appear to be the small, simple, and cheap apparatus required, and the beautiful, clear and bright light produced, surpassing the ordinary coal gas; also, its perfect purity, being free from any nuisance, and its manufacture, and above all, its pure and innocuous, that it may be burnt in any private manse, church, or manufactory, and on any scale, from 5 to 1,000 lights, or more, as well as for cities and towns. As a sanitary measure, it cannot be too highly appreciated, when we consider the thousands who inhale the poisonous fumes, consisting of sulphuric acid, sulphurous acid gas, ammonia, &c., given off by ordinary coal gas, not only affecting the health of a mass of individuals,

but injuring the goods of jewellers, silversmiths, and drapers, books, prints, pictures, furniture, and a variety of other articles. The gas can be made and supplied at a price considerably less than that of coal gas. Thus we see accomplished the forecasting of that eminent chemist and philosopher, the late Sir Humphrey Davy,—"that at some future time, gas would be generated from water for general purposes, surpassing coal gas in brilliancy and purity."

TRAVELING IN GREAT BRITAIN.

The London Railway Chronicle, has the following statements relative to the extent and the hazards of railway traveling in the United Kingdom:

"The number of passengers, according to the return recently published, who have traveled by railway during the half year ending on the 30th of June last, amounted to 36,330,492—which is just about the population of England, Scotland, and Ireland—and some idea may be formed of the state of human beings who have passed over the country, as Mr. Locke says, by means of two parallel pieces of iron, when we reflect that the official numbers actually represent the transmission of every man, woman and child in the United Kingdom, a certain distance, within the short period of six months, at a speed previously unattainable, and in a reduction of danger, considering the mass of human beings thus transferred, almost infinitesimal. Archimedes is reported to have said, if he had standing ground he could move the globe, and though our modern engineers have not exactly attempted to work out that problem, they have satisfactorily solved another, which a few short years since would almost have been thought as visionary. The number of accident figures as 189; 80 resulted in death, and 99 in injuries more or less severe. Of passengers, 6 unfortunately were killed and 60 hurt from no fault of their own—a wonderfully small proportion when we consider the enormous aggregate who now use this mode of locomotion; the remainder of the casualties is made up from accidents to railway servants, laborers on the lines in construction, and persons who have taken this novel mode of committing suicide, by precipitating themselves from trains or into their way, but who, in fact, have as much to do with the safety of railway traveling as a man blowing out his brains had to do with the safety of fire arms. Of the accidents to those regularly employed by the companies, a large proportion seems to have arisen from the carelessness of the men themselves, and we have no data as to the percentage, nor of the laborers; but when the nature of their work is taken into account, we are surprised that there have not been more deaths; and we have little doubt that many other employments would give a much higher rate of mortality and mutilation than railways, and it must also be recollected that when finished a great cause of damage is at once cut off, which just now, whilst so many are employed on the lines in construction, must largely increase the average. We make these remarks without any wish for concealment of the number of accidents, and merely to call public attention to the real state of a question all are interested in; we urge no relaxation of any precaution that can tend to preserve life and limb, but when railways and their directors are held up as a sort to place the matter in its true light, and to boldly assert that the statement from which our figures are taken is a wonderful evidence of the comparative safety with which one million of people shift from town to town, and from village to village every week, or to bring the numbers to lower denominations, a host of 144,000 souls is daily on the move."

Dyeing. Secrets in dyeing are more easily kept than secrets in most other trades. Dyes usually require an intermediate substance called a "mordant." This word means a biter. This substance bites cloth and bites the dye, and so keeps them both together. If you dye a piece of cloth with any color without using a mordant, the color will come out on the first washing. The great secret of dyeing is to find out what particular mordant is adapted to each particular dye; for different mordants will produce different colors, even with the same dye. If you dip a piece of cloth in a solution of alum, which is a very common mordant, and then dye it with cochineal, it will produce a beautiful scarlet, but if you dip it in oxide of iron, and then dye it with cochineal, it will be a perfect black. Sometimes a color will be produced different from that of either the mordant or the dye. If you boil a piece of cloth in a yellow dye, the color produced will not be either a blue or yellow, but a perfect green. [Exchange.]

SCIENCE IN THE KITCHEN. Professor Liebig, in a letter to Prof. Silliman, says:—"The method of roasting is obviously the best to make flesh the most nutritious. But it does not follow that boiling is to be interdicted. If a piece of meat be put into cold water, and this heated to boiling, and boiled until it is 'done,' it will be much harder and less tasty, than if it were boiled in the first case, into water already boiling. In the first case, the meat is gradually heated, and the juices are retained; in the second, the albumen of the meat coagulates from the surface inward, and envelops the interior with a layer which is impenetrable to water. In the latter case, the soup will be indifferently, but the meat delicious."

St. Louis, eighty years ago, was the site of a trader's shanty; sixteen years ago, it contained five thousand souls; now it has forty-five thousand people, forty-five churches, and twice as many steamboats; and five years hence the same will be said of its boat yards and iron factories. [Reveille.]

England pays to Holland, Belgium, and Holstein, about \$5,500,000 per annum for butter.

France produces annually 231,000,000 bushels of wheat, and 369,000,000 bushels of inferior grain.



AUGUSTA, THURSDAY, NOV. 23, 1848.

GREAT INVENTION.

An important improvement has just been made in the spinning of wool, by two ingenious citizens of Kennebec, viz., Mr. Wm. C. Bates of Monmouth, and Mr. Stephen N. Tucker of Gardiner. Mr. Bates is a practical machinist, and Mr. Tucker a wool spinner and manufacturer.

It is known to those who have worked in woolen factories, or observed their operation, that wool cannot, like cotton, be drawn out and twisted, but that it must be drawn and twisted at one operation. This is now done by the means of jacks, which take wool, or roving which has been prepared by the cards, and draw and spin it into threads of the required twist for warp or filling. We examined the new invention the other day, and find that it is so constructed that, by a new and ingenious movement, the jacks may be wholly dispensed with, and the roving taken directly from the cards, drawn and twisted by one operation. The yarn appeared to be smoother and more evenly drawn by the new machine than by the "jacks." It will be seen that this makes a very great saving in the cost of manufacturing woollens.

An experienced manufacturer, at our request, sums up the advantages of this machine, which is called the "Bates & Tucker revolving draft wool spinner," over other machinery for performing the same work, as follows. It being attached to the card, saves the room, power and labor which is required to run the jack. The cost of the revolving draft will be less than half that of the cost of the jacks necessary to do the same amount of work.

There is also great advantage in the saving of waste, besides it draws a more perfect thread than by any other mode of spinning now in use.

Measures have been taken to secure a patent for the invention here, also in England and other countries. We see no reason why it will not come into general use, and we hope to be pecuniary advantage to the ingenious and worthy inventors.

Any thing that will reduce the expenses of manufacturing woollens, or any other fabrics, is valuable not only to the operatives but to the community at large, for while it enables the operator to realize his usual profits, by the reduction of the cost of production it enables him to sell to the consumer at prices reduced from former rates.

Success to the universal Yankee nation, say we. We shouldn't be at all surprised to see a machine made, by and by, of such wonderful powers that it should drive a flock of sheep into its hopper, they would come out, by a single turn of the wheel, so metamorphosed that their fleeces would be made up into flannels and the best of broad-cloths, the carcasses all roasted for the hungry man's dinner, the "trotters" turned into glue, and the entrails into fiddle strings.

COFFEE IN LIBERIA. The people of Liberia are turning their attention to raising coffee, which will, if properly encouraged, become quite an export from this young Republic. One of them has recently made a visit to this country. He states that he has a coffee orchard of eight acres containing four thousand trees. He estimates the produce of each tree to be twelve pounds. In that country he can dispose of it at present at fifteen cents per pound. This is much higher than coffee generally brings. Allowing ten cents per pound, it would bring the produce of each tree up to \$120, and for the product of his whole orchard at these rates, he would realize \$48,000. Quite an income. If we were a slave we would "elope" for Liberia.

They are also going into the culture of ginger and arrowroot for exportation, both of which articles grow luxuriantly in that country.

WATERVILLE ACADEMY. We are indebted to the Principal of this highly popular institution for a catalogue of the officers and students for the academic year ending November, 1848. It is a very neatly printed book. The Board of Trustees are—Samuel Plaisant, M. D., President; Stephen Stark, Secretary; Zebulon Sanger, Treasurer; Stephen Thayer, M. D., Johnson Williams, Harrison A. Smith, Amasa Dingley, David Garland, Samuel Taylor, Jr., Edwin Noyes. The instructors are—James H. Hanson, A. M., Principal; Roxana F. Hanson, Preceptress; Catherine A. Cox, teacher of music; Hannah N. C. Hanson, Cyrus Nason, Richard H. Nott, Samuel H. Polson, assistants. Number of students, 239—gentlemen, 114; ladies, 125. In the department of languages, 27; English department, 142. This academy, we are happy to learn, is in a flourishing condition. It is pleasantly situated in one of our most delightful New England villages; and when the male student has been pretty thoroughly instructed here, he can, if he choose, step into Waterville College and receive the "finishing touch." The next term of this institution will commence on the 27th instant. Tuition, from \$5 to \$9, per term of eleven weeks.

HEBRON ACADEMY. This institution is pleasantly situated in Hebron, Oxford County, and has not been in existence, we believe, but a year or two. We have received from the Principal, Mr. Fairbanks, (who, by the way, was formerly a compositor in our office, and a smart boy, too, he was,) a catalogue of the officers and students of this academy for the year 1848. The Trustees are—Levi Whitman, Esq., President; Joseph Barrows, Esq., Secretary; Robert Carr, M. D., Treasurer; Rev. Allen Greely, Wm. C. Whitney, Esq., Gideon Cushman, Esq., Rev. Caleb B. Davis, Rev. Joseph Walker. The instructors are—George G. Fairbanks, A. B., Principal; Mrs. Caroline M. Fairbanks, Preceptress; Mr. Sumner Eaton, assistant. Number of students, 83—Classical department, 22; English department, 61. The next term will commence the first Monday in March. This institution, we believe, is permanently established, and should be well patronized by the friends of education in that section of the State.

PHILADELPHIA AND LIVERPOOL. A line of steamships are to be placed to ply between Philadelphia and Liverpool next spring.

IS LIGHT NECESSARY TO THE FORMATION OF HAIL? We ask the above question for information. We have no recollection of ever having known any violent and sudden hail storms occurring in the night. We mean such as come up in the summer, accompanied with wind and thunder. It is true that in the winter it is not uncommon in our latitude to have a mixture of hail and sleet during the night at the close of a snow storm, so as to form a crust upon the snow, and to glaze over the fences and forest trees. But this is different from a regular high-pressure hail storm, that comes dashing along on the back of a tornado, knocking the corn and the apples and the window glass into shreds and fragments, and knocking the children down if they dare to pop out of doors.

It is said by some that since the construction of the electric telegraph, with their wires stretching from one end of the country to the other, hail storms have not occurred in their immediate neighborhood. Is this true? We would like to learn facts in regard to these questions, and if some of our friends, who are investigating meteorological phenomena, will pay a little attention to them, and let us hear from them on the subject, we shall be much obliged to them.

KENNEBEC TEACHERS' INSTITUTE. The fall session of this Institute commenced in this town week before last, and closed on Wednesday of last week. The session was a highly interesting one. Number of attendants, 230—males, 103; females, 127. Lectures before it were delivered by Wm. H. Seavey, A. B. of Hallowell, Rev. Wheelock Craig of Portland, Rev. J. Burnham of Augusta, Dr. Geo. Rawson of Massachusetts, Rev. Sylvester Jud of Augusta, W. G. Crosby, Esq., Secretary of the Board of Education, H. K. Baker, Esq., of Hallowell, and David Fales, A. B. of Augusta.

Board of Instruction. Wm. H. Seavey, Hallowell; Henry F. Torrey, Readfield. Principals. J. W. Tuck, and R. A. Rice, Hallowell. Officers. Charles Hewins, President; Dan C. Hanson, Vice President; John Huxsey, Secretary.

TYLER'S UNIVERSAL HISTORY from the creation of the world, which is advertised in our columns, is a work for the million—and one which everybody should have read. It is now being published in numbers by T. Wiley, Jr., in Boston, who, as a publisher, stands in the foremost ranks. The first number of this work we have received from the publisher, and it is a neat specimen of typography. Price, 25 cents per number—complete in eleven numbers. Agents for Augusta, E. Fenn and A. Gaultier, who have copies of this number for sale.

THE BIDEFORD TRI-WEEKLY HERALD has been enlarged and otherwise improved. Mr. Reed has retired from the establishment, and Mr. E. P. Hill, who was wounded during the late campaign in Mexico, has stepped in. The Herald is well conducted, and is deserving of liberal support, which it, no doubt, receives. For that last notice of the Farmer, the editor of the Herald can "take our hat," or draw on us for a sum sufficient to purchase one suitable for his head and ears. Ours, perhaps, is a little too antiquated for one whose "market is not made."

THE SALT MOUNTAIN. Jefferson was once greatly ridiculed for having made mention of a mountain of salt in the far west. It is now found that there is more than one formation of the kind in the country alluded to. Three hundred miles westerly from Fort Gibson, in Arkansas, is an immense salt rock, and from which this article is obtained by merely scraping it up.

EARLY SNOWS. Western New York has beaten Down East this year in the early snow business. On the 7th there had a fall of eighteen inches of snow. They have also had a fall at Louisville, Kentucky, this month, while we have had hardly enough to whiten the ground.

A WARM IDEA. The authorities of the city of Paris, have concluded to establish public warming places for the poor, who are unable to supply themselves with fuel. That's a good plan, and we hope that while they grow warm they will keep cool, and have no more insurrections.

INDIA RUBBER LEGS. Artificial legs, made of vulcanized India rubber, have been made and used in England. They will be more springy than a natural one with the gout.

GETTING KIND. Uncle Sam is getting kind. The Secretary of the Treasury advertises that he has funds enough to meet all obligations up to January next, and all those who are owing on the loan of 1848, may be excused from paying until then. The old fellow means to profit by his kindness, in getting rid of interest that may accrue between this and January, if they should pay in.

GREAT DAMAGE. The reservoir of the water works on the Schuylkill, burst its bounds last week. The flood came in contact with a part of the walls enclosing the grounds of the Girard College, and leveled them to the foundations. The damage done is estimated at \$30,000.

V. B. PALMER'S BUSINESS-MEN'S ALMANAC for the year 1849 is one of the most useful annuals of this stamp that we have yet seen, containing as it does, besides the astronomical calculations, much useful information for merchants, manufacturers, mechanics, and business-men generally. It is for sale at the bookstores.

LARGE CARROTS. Mr. David Wilbur, of this town, dropped a couple of excellent carrots into our basket one day last week. They weighed two pounds each. He raised this season quite a "heap" of them on a small plot of ground. Our farmers would hit it if they would cultivate this root more extensively.

CHOLERA IN ENGLAND. Our consul at Liverpool has sent documents to Washington respecting the existence and progress of the cholera in England. As yet its progress is slow, and it is of a much milder type than it was during its last visit. It will probably be here by the next season, as it seems to travel around the globe from east to west, and the immense tide of emigration hither will hasten its coming.

TELEGRAPH IMPROVEMENTS. Improvements are being made almost every day on Morse's telegraph. A Mr. Mathiot, of Baltimore, has made one recently on the receiving magnet, by which one wire only is needed instead of two as formerly, and he uses two pens instead of one.

SHIPWRECK AND LOSS OF LIFE. The following melancholy news we find in the Boston Atlas:

Bark Winthrop of Augusta, from Mobile for Providence, reported missing, arrived at Nassau, N. P., 20th ult. in distress. Reports on the night of the 13th was thrown on her beam ends, Capt. Davidson killed at the wheel, and her first officer, Obed Burgess, washed overboard and lost. The bark righted, after cutting away the foremast and throwing over a part of the deck load of cotton, and arrived at Nassau in charge of her second officer. The body of Capt. Davidson was retained on board one or two days after the accident and was then buried. The second officer of the Winthrop reports having seen a bark to leeward at 6 A. M. on the 13th, steering, steering in a southerly direction. The latter was seen again on the following day, and supposed from her rig to be in much the same distressed condition as the Winthrop.

Capt. Davidson was formerly from Belfast, but for several years had resided in Augusta, where he leaves a wife and children to lament his melancholy fate. Mr. Burgess, the mate, also belonged to Augusta, and leaves a wife and children.

CONCERT. The lovers of good singing should bear in mind that the "New Branch Hutchinson Family," assisted by the laughing-provoking Dodge, give one of their entertainments this (Wednesday) evening, at State-st. Chapel. If this branch partakes of the musical virtues of the original tree, its performances will give general satisfaction—even a twig would do it.

GODEY'S LADY'S BOOK for December is thus early upon our table, and an excellent number it is, in every respect. The "women folks" speak "right out" in praise of Mr. Godey, who caters so admirably for them. This magazine is for sale at Fenn's and Gaultier's.

A. S. CUTTING, of Carpenter & Co's Express, has our thanks for Boston journals received in advance of the mail.

A HEAVY MAN. The corpse of the late Hon. Dixon H. Lewis weighed five hundred pounds—with the coffin and its lining of lead the whole weighed nine hundred pounds, nearly half a ton.

CLAY A GOOD AID TO SOAP. A foreign paper states that a little pipe clay mingled with the soap is a great aid in washing clothes clean. There is probably truth in this. We once saw a poor family who took in washing and became quite famous in the city near which they lived for the cleanliness which the clothes washed by them exhibited. All the water they had to use was taken from an old clay pit near a brick yard, and which used to be quite muddy at times with the fine particles of the common clay diffused among it.

MASSACHUSETTS ELECTION. The State election occurred on Monday, of last week. It is not yet ascertained whether the Whig candidate for Governor is elected by the people. So far as heard from he has a majority of some four or five hundred over the other candidates, but it is thought by the Traveller, that the scattering vote will defeat his election by the people. The Free States stand far, 158 Whigs, 46 Free Soilers, 18 Democrats. The U. S. Senators elected are Whigs. No choice in several districts. The Whigs have elected six Reps. to Congress—no choice in four districts.

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION. Some few returns have been received from distant states since our last, but they do not alter the "complexion" of the result as then declared. We shall give the official returns from all the states as soon as received.

LAUCHED ON. Saturday of last week, from the yard on the east side of the river, the beautiful, staunch, copper-fastened barque JAMES A. THOMPSON, of two hundred and forty-four tons. She is to be commanded by Capt. T. H. Ellis, and is owned by Capt. Ellis, Freeman Barker, and others. She was built by Master Eben Sawyer, of this town, who has done himself great credit in her construction. She glided from her ways into the water very handsomely, and rests upon that element like a duck.

CORRECTION. In the report of the committee on cows, &c., made by Mr. Robinson, and published two weeks since, an error escaped our notice. For "fed on thorns," &c., read "fed on acorns," &c.

ELECTRIC LIGHT. Statile's electric light is said to be vastly cheaper than gas, costing only about one twelfth as much for equal amounts of light.

REV. S. JUD, of this town, was elected, by the superintending school committee of Kennebec county, last week, a member of the Board of Education. Hon. R. H. Vose declined a re-election.

COLD CARGOES. The exportation of ice from Boston, during the past season, amounts to 20864 tons.

JESUIT COLLEGE. A new college is going up in New Orleans to be under the charge of the Jesuits.

A DEAD KING. Mohammed, Shah King of Persia, died recently with the gout. He is thought the first king that the gout has killed, though he may be the last, if the anti-kingly sentiment which now pervades the old world, should prevail.

GREAT CROP OF CORN. An exchange paper says, Mr. J. Toms, of Boonsboro', in Maryland, has raised, this past summer, three hundred and eighty-three bushels of corn on three acres.

QUARRELsome. England and France have been at war two hundred and sixteen years out of the last seven hundred and thirteen. The principal cause of these wars was because they lived so near together—though a friend at our elbow says it was because they couldn't agree!

GETTING CIVILIZED. Accounts from Hindostan state that the Hindoos are learning the art of temperance very fast, and becoming a nation of drunkards. This is one of the curses bestowed upon them by those who pretend to be civilized.

FATAL FALL. On Tuesday afternoon, James Houson, one of the hostlers belonging to the stable company, with the Patterson House, Elm street, fell through the scullie in the stable loft. He struck upon his head, and was instantly killed. He was an unmarried man, about 25 years of age, and came from Lebanon, Maine. About two years ago his brother was accidentally killed. Coroner Pratt held an inquest on the body, and a verdict of "accidental death" was rendered. [Boston Bee, 16th.]

THE LATE JOHN JACOB ASTOR'S personal property has been ascertained to amount to four millions of dollars. The value of his real estate has not yet been fixed.

SCHOOLS OF THE OLDEN TIME.

(Mr. Crosby, Secretary of the Board of Education for this State, while attending the meeting of the Institute in Aroostook County, was lucky enough to crib the following original poetry, which he gives us in his valuable paper, the Common School Advocate, published at Belfast, and which should be extensively patronized. This poetry is full of old and gentle remembrances.)

The schools—the schools of other days!
Those were the schools for me,
When, in a flock and trowsers dressed,
I learned my A B C.

When with my dinner in my hat
I trudged away to school,
Nor dared to stop, as boys do now—
For school-masters had a rule.

With locks well combed and face so clean—
The school-masters' faces were so clean—
And "stick-horses" to ride upon—
—What happy little men!

And if a traveller we met,
We drew no sticks or stones,
To fright the horses as they passed,
Or break good people's bones.

But with our little bows and arrows,
We bent our heads full low,
For our school-masters failed to ask,
"Boys, did you make a bow?"

All the little girls with us
Would court the fawn-like look,
And their little ankles'neath their gowns—
—Girls don't make a bow!

We took no fruit, nor tangled grass,
To fright the horses as they passed,
And when we spoke to older folks,
Put hands on their names.

And when the hour for school had come,
Of bell we heard no need,
For the school-masters' taps on the glass,
Each one would quickly heed.

That school-masters! Heaven bless their names!
How shall we meet their like!
She always was a green calash,
—A school-masters!

She never sported pantalettes,
No silks on her red rustle—
Her dress hung gracefully all round,
—She never wore a bustle.

With modest mien and loving heart
To fight the horses as they passed,
The next one was begun.

The days were all alike to her,
The evenings just the same,
Till Saturday forenoon came:
—Till Saturday forenoon came!

And then we had a "spelling-match,"
And learned the sounds of A,
The mouth and weeks that make the year,
The hours that make the day.

And on that day we saw her smile,
And when she said "good night,"
—Till Saturday forenoon came:
—Till Saturday forenoon came!

When next "leap year" would be,
—When next "leap year" would be,
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THE SHEFFIELD GRINDERS.

Sheffield (Eng.) is a place remarkable for its manufacture of iron ware. Who has not heard of the cutlery of Sheffield? It is noted all over the world. It may not, however, be generally known, that the work-people who produce those beautiful articles which are to be found in almost every dwelling in this country, are subject to a disease, which carries thousands to a premature grave.

Several thousand individuals are constantly employed in Sheffield in the pernicious occupation of grinding; and many thousands depend upon these grinders for their daily bread. The evils under which these men labor are not only productive of misery and wretchedness to the artisans and their families, but to the town at large. A few facts will show this more clearly.

Scissor grinding is exceedingly pernicious to health. Many of the artisans in this branch are emaciated and shattered in constitution at an age considerably under the prime of life. Much, however, depends upon the habits of the workmen, and the circumstances under which the occupation is followed. The grinders themselves never seem to be sensible of the incipient stages of pulmonary disease, though invariably accompanied by cough, and some degree of difficulty of breathing. They complain only when disease interferes with their ability to pursue their usual occupation. Of one thousand scissor grinders, not one has reached the sixty-fifth year of age; of one hundred deaths, eighty-five took place under forty-five, and only five reached fifty years of age. The chief symptoms of disease are difficulty of breathing, spitting blood, passing small particles of sand by the urinary organs: these are signs of inflammation of the chest, rheumatism, &c., &c.

Fork Grinding is considered of such a destructive tendency, that other artisans frequently refuse to work in the same room with the fork grinders, and many sick clubs have special rules against their admission, in consequence of their frequent and long continued sickness. An immense proportion of them die under thirty years of age. In 1830 it was found that one-fourth of their number died every 3 years, a rate of mortality unknown in other branches of industry. Of 1000 deaths, 475 were between 20 and 30, and 885 between 30 and 40 years of age. The average deaths in England and Wales, between 20 and 40 years, is 296 in 1000!

Fork Grinding is not very extensively carried on in Sheffield, where it has only been introduced of late years. The new hands are taken into this business fresh from the plough, with vigorous constitutions, at a time when the mind is free from all morbid influences, and the system is in a healthy state. In consequence of their frequent and long continued sickness. An immense proportion of them die under thirty years of age. In 1830 it was found that one-fourth of their number died every 3 years, a rate of mortality unknown in other branches of industry. Of 1000 deaths, 475 were between 20 and 30, and 885 between 30 and 40 years of age. The average deaths in England and Wales, between 20 and 40 years, is 296 in 1000!

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The Muse.

WINTER IS COMING.

BY RICHARD COE, JR.

Winter is coming! the birds have flown

Any to a warmer clime;

The autumn wind, as it waileth by,

To the thoughtful heart brings a sigh,

As it lists to the mournful chime.

Winter is coming!

Winter is coming! the orchard gay

Looks forward, with hope and joy,

To the snowy hills and frozen streams

Even while the thought still gleams

Through the mind of the happy boy.

Winter is coming!

Winter is coming! the maiden fair

With a heart all merry and gay,

Remembers the ball—the play—the rout—

Remembers the gay sleigh-party about—

And sings through the living day.

Winter is coming!

Winter is coming! the homelike poor

With a feeling of awful dread,

Behold his agonizing sighs and tears—

His coming, to him, awakens fears

That, perchance, they may want for bread:

Winter is coming!

Winter is coming! to all—the ill—

With his chilly and freezing breath;

To the orphan girl, the maiden fair—

To the homeless poor—Oh! then prepare

For the cold, cold winter of death!

Winter is coming!

[From the New England Offering.]

TETE-A-TETE OF THE MILK-MAIDS.

Becky, see the sunset glowing.

O'er the fields a golden glow.

Golden, pure and steady.

O! it seems like my spirit!

(That's our cow-bell! you hear it?)

Get the milk-pails ready!

Yes, dear Sally, look and listen!

Now the dew begins to glisten:

(Hark! the night bird's song.)

What a lovely scene is showing!

(Hark! the night bird's song.)

—I'll hold you fast!

Becky, does the twilight hour

By its hand and soothing power

With sweet musings fill you?

Peace hangs round us like a mantle—

(Sob, sob, Sukey, come to gentle!)

Stop that kicking, will you!

Earth with music is overflowing

(There, the honey bees are lowing!)

How these daisies do wander!

But I faint would rather, Sally,

Than mine honest cattle.

Becky, life's a fleeting hour

Joy brings grief, and grief will sour

Yet it is vain complaining.

Mortal now get up and busy

Only by hard work or money!

(Set the pans for straining!)

The Story-Teller.

[From the Rambler.]

THE MODEL WIFE:

A MARRIED MAN'S CONFESSION.

[CONTINUED.]

I had arrived at this stage of my self-satisfying

reflections, when I procured myself an entrance

by means of the private key, and very

neatly trod upon two cards slipped under the

door; these I thrust into my pocket, and after-

wards ascertained that they were left by my

wife's Italian and music masters, who had

in vain run for admittance.

Groping my way through a set of rooms, I

unconsciously threw open the door of her

sitting-room, and called out "MAY!" to

which the only response was at first a low

moan, and after a few seconds a very feeble

voice vainly attempted to pronounce my name.

I was suddenly and fully aroused by my

stupor.

"Mary, Mary," I ejaculated with alarming

earnestness, "what is the matter with you,

and why are you here in the dark?"

All was silent; even a repetition of that

moan would have been grateful. Terrified

beyond measure, I at length descended in

Snatching her from the sofa I wildly bore her

away through many rooms, till I reached our

sleeping apartment, where, as I laid her upon

the bed, another low sob escaped her lips,

and then all was still. "It is nature's last sigh,"

I thought, and in my frenzy prostrated my-

self across the couch, resting my head upon

her feet.

She uttered a piercing shriek, which instan-

tly brought me to an upright position.

She yet lived, was it possible to save her?

With this faint dawn of hope, I flew to the

house of a physician and demanded his im-

mediate attendance, narrated all the circum-

stances of her illness, and offered the largest

compensation if he would but restore her to

me.

After a moment's reflection and to my sur-

prise, he took no notice of her insensibility,

but commenced removing the kid slipper and

silk stocking from one of her feet. In an

instant I discovered the cause of her sudden

cry; the whole upper surface of her foot had

been scalded by that unfortunate soap, and

must have caused her, during so many hours,

the most intense pain.

Ordering some cold water, he immediately

placed her in a rocking chair, immersed the

wounded limb, tenderly rubbed her hands and

patiently waited the result; it proved the clear-

ness of his perception and the adaptation of

his remedy. Ere a quarter of an hour, Mary

had several times opened her eyes, looked

longingly about as if to recall the events

which had been so disastrous to her, and at

last sank into a state between stupor and sleep.

That wretched night wore away—morning

dawned—my wife had returned to me as from

the dead; still, she spoke not, and once I ob-

served that as her eyes rested upon me, an

expression of anguish flitted across her coun-

tenance, and her person moved as if convulsed

by a cold shudder.

"You are the cause of this unbecomingly

suffering," was the language of that look and

gesture, and leaving her with the physi-

cian, I rushed into the morning air to calm

my boiling brain. But my serenity in some

measure restored—my self-esteem and firm-

ness having gained their wonted supremacy,

although willing to accuse myself, I did not

wholly excuse Mary; it occurred to me that

her misfortune were more the result of her

own inefficiency, and want of self-reliance

and firmness, than of my harshness or severity.

In fact, though it may seem incredible to

others, with the prospect of Mary's resto-

ration to all my plans for the accomplishment

of that purpose swelling in importance

as I continued to reflect upon them.

Viewing the matter in this light, it was

therefore necessary to maintain my dignity

by withholding even those acknowledgments

which I felt to be just, and to persevere in

requiring of Mary the performance of those

duties which I had previously imposed upon

her. Thus was her recent narrow escape

from death made the occasion of drawing

still more closely about this fair young crea-

ture the galling chains of domestic slavery.

Never once, at that period of my life, did I

ask myself, "Why did I marry her?" "Am

I doing all possible things to contribute to

her happiness?" "Have I faithfully studied

the character of her organization, and do I

assist her development and perfect her nature?"

Alas! no! Too late I learned to know the ex-

ceeding beauty, the internal fragrance of the

sensitive plant which I had so carelessly gath-

ered from the parent tree to my own ungeni-

ble bosom.

Many weeks passed before Mary could

walk, even with a crutch; and during that

period nothing could exceed her melancholy

and quiet avoidance of all private or contin-

ued conversation with me; it was probably

the result of a slowly gathering resolution

which she afterwards voluntarily communi-

cated to me. I can never forget the time, or

the circumstances of that communication—would

elasticity in her step, but there was a studied

lightness and grace of motion—no joyous im-

pulse of unrestrained happiness prompted her

to rush into the arms of a friend and bid him

welcome, but she received all my visitors (she

had none of her own) in a style as charming

as it was inimitable—in short, all was stud-

ied, and so perfectly as to seem natural.

The reader may be somewhat curious to

learn what vast labors I achieved during those

months and years in which I forced Mary to

acquire so many practical lessons of industry

and economy, and it is, indeed, a matter wor-

thy of inquiry.

I had once a very old and wealthy uncle,

who treated his son so harshly that the latter

deserted his home and went to sea, and was

supposed to have died. My relation, after-

wards, duly repented, and at one, in some

measure, adopted me—an orphan—and at his

death he left me, in case of non-appearance

of his son and true heir, his whole fortune;

should be ever true, my claim was ended.

In view of this liability, my uncle had sent

me to college, and subsequently to a law

school, that my profession might be an ample

means of support, should I ever require it.

In accordance therewith, I kept an office filled

with the most elegantly bound and lettered

law books which I could purchase in my own

or foreign countries, and in that office I spent

daily the larger part of my time; now watch-

ing the operations of the kitchen—then turn-

ing over the leaves of the last novel; now

reading advertisements and political contro-

versaries in a newspaper—then lighting a fresh

cigar, and building castles amid the wreaths

of smoke as they ascended in graceful curves

to the wall; now gossiping with a friend,

on some political and worldly then taking a

quiet game of chess or cards. Noble occu-

pations! But what did it signify? I had a

house, a wife, plenty of money, and more-

over, am a man—I therefore did simply what

I pleased.

Near the termination of the eighth year of

my married life, a sudden change marred our

outward prosperity. We were sitting at tea,

and as usual Mary was pensive and thought-

ful—I was wholly absorbed in the contents of

my plate, and our two little girls were mer-

riely chatting over their strawberries and cream.

"Charles," said my wife gravely, "it has

several times occurred to me, that as your

claim upon this property is liable to be dis-

puted at any moment, it would be far better

for us to live in an humble style, reserving a

large part of our income against actual neces-

sity, or for the establishment of our girls; be-

sides, in our present position, they will be

accustomed to many enjoyments, many lux-

uries, which it will be hard to sacrifice when

they marry."

"I shall not permit them to marry so young

as you did," was my coarse reply, "and I in-

tend they shall previously be taught every-

thing—that task shall not be left for their

husbands. Were we to become poor, I should

of course conform to necessity; as it is, I de-

sire to see them elegantly as well as usefully

brought up."

Mary sighed as her eyes rested upon her

beautiful ones—her mother's heart would

have spared them a repetition of her own tri-

als, but as yet she saw no way. Without

deigning any further notice of her argument,

I went on eating and musing, till summoned

from the table by the door-bell. A venerable

stranger demanded admission, adding in an

unfamiliar tone—

"Very singular as the request may appear,

I wish to see the whole interior of a house

whose exterior beauty I have spent several

hours in admiring."

"And to whom have I the honor of expos-

ing my domestic arrangements?" I haughtily

demanded.

"To one who wishes to become your guest

for a few days," was his reply.

"This, sir," retorted I, "is certainly an

Some six weeks after, she told me that she

had engaged a few pupils in French, Italian,

and in music, both upon the harp and piano,

the avails of which would yield more than

enough to pay Eleanor, and begged me to

send for her.

"Remember our little ones," I replied,

gravely, "and as you have them the money

which Eleanor would demand."

Her scholars increased weekly, so thor-

ough was her instruction, and so winning her

manner, and it was certainly providential,

for soon our little store of money was exhaus-

ted, and her labors were our only dependence,

while I pursued anew the study of my pro-

fession.

From four in the morning till ten and often

twelve at night, did this angelic woman move

from one task to another, now bending her

slight figure over the wash-tub or iron-stand,

then turning patiently the leaves of a dictio-

nary, or slowly executing a difficult piece for

the assistance of a pupil; now moving rapidly

about the cooking stove to prepare our

comfortable meal—then hushing our children

to rest with a low, sweet song, while her

fingers ceaselessly moved over the tortoise

seam.

I often stole an hour or two from my books